



# Montgomery County Council

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**For Immediate Release**

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**August 29, 2014**

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## **Montgomery County Seeks Applicants For Merit System Protection Board**

*Deadline to Submit Applications is Wednesday, Oct. 15*

ROCKVILLE, Md., August 29, 2014—The Montgomery County Council is accepting applications from qualified voters of the County for appointment to a three-year term on the Merit System Protection Board. Generally, the board is expected to oversee the Merit System and to protect employee and applicant rights guaranteed under the County Merit System.

Applications must be received in the Council office by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

Current members of the Board are Raul Chavera (unaffiliated), Julie Martin-Korb (unaffiliated), and Michael Kator (Democrat).

By law, no more than two of the three members of the Merit System Protection Board may be of the same political party. The appointee for this position may be a Democrat, a Republican, a voter who declines to affiliate with a party or a voter who is a member of another party officially recognized by the Board of Elections.

There are two methods in which the board processes appeals:

- A written decision issued after a review and discussion of a written record.
- A written decision issued after a pre-hearing conference and a formal hearing in cases involving a suspension, demotion or dismissal.

The board, on a periodic basis, conducts special studies, audits or inquiries of the administration of the merit and retirement pay systems and, in this effort, may compel the attendance of witnesses. Written reports of its findings and recommendations are filed with the County Executive and the County Council. The board also provides comments on any proposed changes in Merit System law or regulations.

The board holds hearings during the day, which can take the full day, with any additional proceedings scheduled for subsequent evening(s). Also, the board normally meets once per month for approximately three hours during the day. Additional time is also required for preparatory work.

Members of the board receive \$7,761 per year, which is adjusted annually to reflect 50 percent of the percentage change in the Washington Area Consumer Price Index.

Board members are restricted in political activity while serving. Section 403 of the County Charter states in part "No member shall hold political office or participate in any campaign for any political or public office during the member's term of office." Members of County boards, committees and commissions may not serve on more than one such group at a time.

Applicants should submit letters of interest with a resume to: Craig Rice, President, Montgomery County Council, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850 by 5 p.m. on Oct. 15. Applications also can be submitted via email to [county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov).

Resumes should include professional and civic experience, political party affiliation, home and office telephone numbers and an email address. Letters and resumes submitted are made public as part of the appointment process. A financial statement of assets, debts, income and family property interests will be required of all applicants. Only the appointed candidates will be required to make the financial statement available to the public.

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